

Salvage Jobs

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Several years ago, I was stationed with a squadron of very unique ships. These were salvage ships. Their mission was to recover ships and planes that had crashed at sea. Some of the objects were sunk while others had simply run aground. When the Space Shuttle *Challenger* exploded in the 1980's, it was salvage ships that recovered the wreckage. A ship ran aground on a reef off the coast in Hawaii and it was salvage ships that refloated the ship and safely removed it from the reef.

It was very interesting being assigned to this organization. They had many Navy divers attached. All of the divers spent a great deal of time in the water, including time they spent sport diving. Many of them had artifacts and objects they had recovered from the ocean. I have a one hundred pound anchor that had been recovered by a Navy diver several years ago.

Many divers will keep artifacts for themselves, but many are sold to collectors or other individuals. A lot of people have old portholes and other objects gracing the wall of a den or rec room. They add a nice nautical flavor. One object that I saw years ago that I admired was a coffee table made from a wooden hatch cover off of a ship. It had been varnished, but otherwise left in it's rough state. It was very rustic, but beautiful. Maybe some day I will have the opportunity to add one to my own collection.

The interesting thing about all of this is that none of the items are now being used for the original design. A porthole was intended to let light and air into a compartment on a ship, but now holds a picture or mirror. A propeller may be used as a support for a glass tabletop. And a hatch cover that was intended for use to keep the water out of the ship now is fashioned into a tabletop. Each of the items was taken and made into something new after it had lost its usefulness in it's original design.

We were created to have a relationship with God. However, sin corrupted us so that we are no longer able to serve that original purpose. Now, when we enter into a relationship with God, the Bible teaches that we are adopted as joint heirs of God. Basically, we have been salvaged and given a higher use.

This is a source of great comfort to me and to many others. We never have to feel as if we have outlived our usefulness or that we are no longer valuable. To God, no one is obsolete. We are all valuable and precious to Him. He takes us like an old porthole, cleans us and makes us into something new and beautiful. And just like many old nautical artifacts, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And in the eyes of God, we are beautiful, indeed.

I hope you have found your true value to God. If you haven't, let Him perform a salvage operation on you and give you a new sense of purpose and worth.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.